

# THUNDER RAIN ON CALEDON'S PARADE ON WAY TO OMHA TITLE

## PEEWEE AES UPSET POWERHOUSE HAWKS BEFORE BEATING AURORA FOR CHAMPIONSHIP

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During his team's Ontario Minor Hockey Association semifinal, Halton Hills Thunder coach Tom Collis brought in a mini Stanley Cup to help motivate his team.

His team may have felt like it won the cup after knocking off the Caledon Hawks in the quarterfinals. The Hawks had lost just once in 28 regular season games and then breezed through the OMHA preliminary round with six straight wins.

The best the Thunder had managed in five games against Caledon this season was a 3-3 tie.

But Halton Hills shocked the Hawks with a 2-1 road win in the opening game of their series and then got a goal from Aaron Salmon 32 seconds into overtime to take the second game 3-2.

Caledon didn't go without a fight, winning 3-1 in

Game 3, but the Thunder completed its shocking comeback with Jacob Andrews converting Jake Harview's pass on a two-on-one 24 seconds into overtime to give the Thunder a 1-0 series clinching win.

"We were on the other end of that a couple of years ago," said Thunder coach Tom Collis. "We went 26-1-1, won 16 games in a row at one point and got put out in the first round."

So the cup was a reminder that the job wasn't done just yet.

Matthew Coughlin, who posted the shutout in the clinching game, would take a starring role in the next series. With Halton Hills down 2-1 and facing elimination in its series against Garden City, Coughlin allowed just one goal over the final two games, a 3-0 shutout and a 2-1 victory in the series finale.

"We just outworked them," Collis said. "Our



Halton Hills Thunder

Members of the OMHA champion Thunder are: (front, from left) Matthew Coughlin, Jason Collis, Matthew Langille, Nolan Peet (second row, from left) Ryan Clarke, Michael Canali, Ryan Jackson, Jacob Andrews, Mitchell Winsler, Caeden Langdon, Jake Harview, Cameron Waite, Aaron Salmon (third row, from left) Cale Martin, Matthew Fairhead, Harrison Kligman, Bryce Cross, Ben Lust, Kyle Harrison, (back row, from left) coaching staff Tom Collis, Matt Martin, Trevor Andrews, Mike Langdon and Sandy Kligman.

goal all season was to not get outworked. (Garden City) gave us more of a run than we thought they would, but that's where our guys' character kicked in."

In the final against Aurora, the Thunder again fell behind in the series af-

ter dropping the opener 2-1. Halton Hills won the next two, but Aurora stayed alive with a 1-1 tie in Game 4. Back on home ice, the Thunder put everything they learned this season to use. Jason Collis scored 1:16 into the game, but Au-

rorra would force overtime. Though a tie would have been enough to clinch the title, Andrews provided a much better ending with his second series-clinching OT goal.

"We worked a lot on skill development this year. We

had goaltending clinics, worked on shooting, worked with the Georgetown Skating Club," Collis said. "They had a great run. I love these players. I was hard on them, but they bought in to what we were doing."



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